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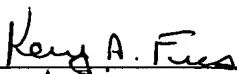
Attention: Beverly Friedman

The attached application for patent term extension of U.S. Patent No. 6,235,030 was filed on January 19, 2006, under 35 U.S.C. § 156.

The assistance of your Office is requested in confirming that the product identified in the application, X-STOP® Interspinous Process Decompression System, has been subject to a regulatory review period within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 156(g) before its first commercial marketing or use and that the application for patent term extension was filed within the sixty-day period after the product was approved. Since a determination has not been made whether the patent in question claims a product which has been subject to the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, or a method of manufacturing or use of such a product, this communication is NOT to be considered as notice which may be made in the future pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 156(d)(2)(A).

Our review of the application to date indicates that the subject patent would be eligible for extension of the patent term under 35 U.S.C. § 156.

Inquiries regarding this communication should be directed to Kathleen Kahler Fonda at (571) 272-7754 (telephone) or (571) 273-7754 (facsimile).


Kery A. Fries
Senior Legal Advisor
Office of Patent Legal Administration
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy

cc: Sheldon R. Meyer
Fliesler Meyer LLP
Four Embarcadero Center, Fourth Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111-4156